

MUTUAL AID

8161

(May 1995)

Mutual aid is a reciprocal agreement between two or more agencies wherein each agrees to provide assistance to the other under certain conditions. Providing mutual aid is based on the capabilities of the sending agency at the time of the request.

Automatic mutual aid is an agreement between agencies on a preplanned level of resources to be committed on the first alarm.

Agreements specify the terms of the aid rendered. Most agreements detail what types of equipment are covered, the no-cost time period, and the assistance-by-hire provisions. Mutual and automatic aid agreements are intended to cover first alarm incidents and to provide efficient use of the closest available resources.

Because the agreements are reciprocal, the no-cost resources must be of the same type or must be negotiated to include specialized types which will benefit both agencies. Certain equipment is not available in most agencies (e.g., bulldozers, hand crews, and aircraft) and is normally excluded from mutual aid agreements.

LOCAL AGREEMENTS FOR MUTUAL AID

8161.1

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Units may negotiate automatic and mutual aid agreements with adjoining local government jurisdictions. ([See Policy 8516 – Agreements For Mutual Aid Fire Protection](#)) Access to OES resources and those of other local government jurisdictions is gained via the local Operational Area OES Fire and Rescue Coordinator.

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